Exciting things happen each day on the University of Central Missouri campus. These periodic updates share important news, recognitions, and progress reports regarding ongoing and new initiatives. Updates can be found at http://www.ucmo.edu/about/president/letters.cfm.

- Aaron Podolefsky

New Facilities Planning Staff

You may recall that in April, UCM’s Board of Governors approved a self-operating model for UCM’s facilities management services, previously managed by Aramark. This transition has resulted in three new hires to UCM – Chris Wellman, executive director of Facilities, Planning and Operations; Beth Halsey, manager of Facilities Budget and Computerized Management Maintenance System; and Kelvin Mooney, manager of grounds. Chris, Beth, and Kelvin are former Aramark employees who applied and interviewed for these positions along with other individuals. Congratulations and welcome!

ESCO Town Hall Meetings

On June 17, UCM will hold the first of several monthly town hall meetings to review the ESCO project schedule and receive input from the campus community. Subsequent meetings are currently planned for 4 p.m. July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 28, and Nov. 18 in Lovinger 1290.

In addition, a project web site will be established that contains general time lines and proposed milestones for the project. A web site also is available for individuals to submit questions and suggestions, http://www.ucmo.edu/questions/. A separate section has been established to respond to ESCO questions.
Morrow-Garrison and Student Recreation and Wellness Center Construction Bids

During a special meeting May 28, UCM’s Board of Governors authorized the university to award contracts for the renovation of the Morrow-Garrison complex and construction of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center in the amount of $28 million. Bids for the project came in approximately $1 million under budget, and as a result UCM will consider opportunities to enhance the renovation of the Morrow-Garrison buildings and construction of the adjacent Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The construction bids also included eight alternate projects that will be incorporated into the facilities. The joint renovation and construction project is expected to cost $36 million, and is scheduled to be completed in late fall 2010.

Training Aircraft Purchase

Also during the special May 28 board meeting, the governors authorized the purchase of two new Cessna 172SP aircraft equipped with state-of-the-art glass cockpits for a total cost not to exceed $500,000, and the sale of four UCM current Cessna 172 training aircraft. With advances in technology in recent years, UCM’s Department of Aviation must upgrade its equipment for training future pilots in order to remain competitive with other universities. The department is acquiring additional flight training devices that will meet significant flight training requirements at a lower cost to students and to the university. These purchases were funded by aviation program funds.

Office of Sponsored Programs has Record Month

May was a record month for the Office of Sponsored Programs. Forty-five proposals were submitted for a total of $8.3 million. This is the highest number of submissions and the highest requested amount in one month recorded in the office's database, which goes back to 2001. The university received $2.3 million in awards during May which is in the top 5% in the Banner system records.

Some of these proposals and awards demonstrate that with the economy’s slow recovery agencies are starting to catch up on their funding. Some of these monies are from new programs utilizing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/Stimulus Funds. These funds are presenting unique opportunities and challenges for us, not least of which is the incredibly short turnaround time for submission. Congratulations!

H1N1 Update

Reports indicate that the H1N1 influenza is beginning to decrease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization are making preparations to produce a vaccine and will continue monitoring Southern Hemisphere countries during their winter flu season in order to determine when and if it should make the vaccine available. Currently, anyone displaying flu-like symptoms is tested for Influenza A. UCM’s Health Center will schedule two flu shot clinics in early and late October.
**Dining News**

A brand new flagship resident dining program is being developed for Todd Residence Hall. Renovation began June 1 and is expected to be completed by Aug. 15. The newly refurbished venue will feature five restaurant-quality destinations with each providing exhibition-style cooking in an all-you-can-eat, set-price program. This will provide a unique dining experience for our students, offering freshly prepared food in a vibrant new atmosphere.

Also scheduled to open in August 2009 are two new retail offerings; a Chick-fil-A Express and convenience store in the Elliott Union Recreation Center and Einstein Brothers Bagels Express in the Kirkpatrick Library. These new locations offer the most popular items of the two national brands and will expand services to the campus community. Funding for these projects is included in the new agreement with Sodexo.

**Arboretum Update**

Several years ago, I convened a task force to consider designating UCM an “arboretum campus” to reflect the beauty of the campus and to create a botanical and artistic learning environment. Over the past year, university members have worked on the project as well as the creation of a new tree trail consisting of 100+ trees and shrubs. Identification signs have been made and should be placed in the ground within the next couple of weeks. Involvement in the project includes university staff, as well as faculty from the Biology, Agriculture, and Geography departments, and members of UCM’s grounds crew. Brochures are being developed and a website will be established. A grand opening is being planned for fall 2009 or spring 2010.

**KMOS-TV – Digital Conversion**

KMOS-TV opened a Digital TV (DTV) Walk-in Center in the Wood-Martin Building so that the public may learn hands-on about equipment available for viewers to continue receiving a free broadcast television signal by antenna after June 12. KMOS-TV staff members from the DTV Walk-in Center are also participating in eight, day-long DTV Mobile Clinics in communities throughout the KMOS-TV broadcast area. Stops cover Camdenton, Clinton, Fulton, Lebanon, Moberly, Odessa, Sedalia, and Warsaw.

Visitors of the Walk-in Center may view demonstrations of how to connect the digital conversion box to an analog television, request DTV converter coupons and receive a variety of print materials, and view videos related to DTV conversion.

Funding for the DTV Walk-in Center and Mobile Clinics was provided through the ARRA, a federally-funded economic stimulus program that includes financial support to provide the public access to information about the digital television conversion.
Central Missouri Repertory

The Central Missouri Repertory is currently rehearsing for the mainstay production of “Pump Boys and Dinettes,” June 18-20 and June 25-27 in the Highlander Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m.

“Winnie the Pooh” will be performed at 10 a.m., June 27 at the UCM Amphitheatre (next to the Alumni Park). If you are interested in obtaining tickets to either of these events, please Central Repertory Theatre’s Box Office at 660-543-8811.

Carnegie Course

In fall 2009, a new course offering – the Dale Carnegie Course will be available to students at UCM. This new offering is made possible through a partnership between UCM and Dale Carnegie Training. The course is designed to strengthen students’ communication and interpersonal skills, and help them build self-confidence. Participants will learn how to communicate effectively in a variety of interpersonal and public settings, and gain a better understanding of the diversity of human interaction and what promotes and impedes productive personal interaction.

Spring 2009 Graduation

The spring 2009 Commencement was very well attended. In all, we awarded 783 undergraduate and 257 graduate degrees; eight graduate certificates; and five Doctor of Education degrees through the cooperative doctoral program with the University of Missouri-Columbia. This is a total of 2,148 UCM degrees for the year beginning summer 2008.